

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 06358 110743Z

16

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 CG-00 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-14 RSC-01 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04

NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00

FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 DRC-01

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FROM US DEL LOS

DEPT. PLEASE PASS TO HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: A CONGRESS NEWS RELEASE

1. PASS TO MIKE MALONE. PLEASE RELEASE THE FOLLOWING AS A
CONGRESS NEWS RELEASE: "COM RELEASE (CARACAS, VENEZUELA) --- THE
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA
REPORTS FROM CARACAS, VENEZUELA, THAT THE PROGRESS OF THE THIRD
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON LAW OF THE SEA HAS BEEN RATHER NECESSARILY

SLOW, AS HAD BEEN PREDICTED BY MANY EXPERTS, WITH THE FIRST WEEK BEING

DEVOTED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ON VOTING, AN ISSUE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 06358 110743Z

WHICH WAS FINALLY RESOLVED BY THE CONSENSUS OF THE PARTICIPATING

STATES AND APPEARS TO HAVE SET THE TONE OF THE CURRENT SESSION.

"ACCORDING TO MICRONESIAN JOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, SENATOR ANDON L. AMARAICH, AFTER PROTRACTED DEBATES NOT ONLY ON PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF VOTING BUT ALSO ON OTHER SENSITIVE ISSUES INJECTED DURING THE FIRST WEEK'S PROCEEDINGS, CONFERENCE PRESIDENT HAMILTON SHIRLEY AMERSINGHE OF SRI LANKA STRUCK ON SEVERAL COMPROMISES

WHICH FINALLY PAVED THE WAY FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE IMPORTANT VOTING PROCEDURE BY THE CONSENSUS OF SOME 147 PARTICIPATING NATIONS. BASICALLY, THE VOTING PROCEDURE WOULD REQUIRE A 2/3 MAJORITY OF THE REQUIRED 2/3 QUORUM OF ALL PARTICIPATING STATES TO DECIDE ON ANY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE, BUT ANY MAJOR ISSUES WILL NOT BE COMMITTED TO A VOTE UNTIL AFTER ALL EFFORTS TO REACH A CONSENSUS AMONG ALL PARTIES CONCERNED HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED. IN SHORT, THE RULE OF GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT WILL PREVAIL, UNLESS A COMPROMISE TO REACH A CONSENSUS BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE.

"THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ON VOTING THROUGH GENERAL CONSENSUS HAS BEEN APPLAUDED BY MANY DELEGATIONS, WHO WERE OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS HAS SET A GOOD PRECEDENT FOR THE CONFEREES TO ATTEMPT TO REACH GENERAL AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANTIVE

ISSUES THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND COMPROMISES RATHER THAN "CONFRONTATIONS"

IN VOTING TO FORMULATE A COMPREHENSIVE AND WORKABLE INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE SEA.

"THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MICRONESIAN JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA INCLUDE CONSULTING ON A REGULAR BASIS AND TRYING TO ESTABLISH A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND RAPPORT WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO CHAIRMAN AMARAICH. THE MICRONESIAN REPRESENTATIVES ARE APPRECIATIVE

OF THE MANY COURTESIES AND COOPERATIVE EFFORTS EXTENDED TO THEM BY THE

U.S. DELEGATION, HE NOTED. THE MICRONESIAN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS, IN TURN, HOPE TO WORK WITH THE U.S. OFFICIALS IN A SPIRIT OF CONSTRUC-

TIVE COOPERATION TO REPRESENT OUR VIEWS AND INTERESTS IN SEA RESOURCES
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CARACA 06358 110743Z

WHICH ARE SO VITAL TO OUR FUTURE ECONOMIC WELL BEING, SENATOR AMARAICH

SAID.

"DURING THIS WEEK, MANY STATES AND NATIONS ARE TO PRESENT THEIR FORMAL STATEMENTS IN THE PLENARY SESSIONS CONCERNING THEIR VIEWS AND POSITIONS ON THE MUTUAL USE OF THE SEA AND ITS POTENTIAL RESOURCES AND

BENEFITS TO MANKIND. MANY EXPERTS HERE IN CARACAS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AGREE THAT MANY NATIONS, AMONG THEM ARE MAJOR MARITIME STATES SUCH AS THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHERS, APPEAR TO BE LEANING TOWARD THE "200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE" CONCEPT. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE PRESUMPTUOUS AT THIS TIME TO EXPECT THAT SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE AND ITS PREFERENTIAL USE BY THE COASTAL STATES CAN BE AGREED UPON WITHOUT A GREAT DEAL OF INITIAL DISAGREEMENTS, CURRENT INDICATIONS APPEAR TO BE THAT IF ADEQUATE NAVIGATION RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CAN BE GUARANTEED, A NUMBER OF MAJOR MARITIME POWERS MAY BE WILLING TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE CONCEPT OF THE "ECONO-

MIC ZONE" PROPOSAL. AND WHILE MANY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARE EXPECTED TO BE RESOLVED HERE IN CARACAS, THERE IS AN IMMINENT POSSIBILITY THAT THE FINAL CONVENTION ON LAW OF THE SEA WILL COME OUT AT THE SUBSEQUENT SESSION IN VIENNA.

"THE MEMBERS OF THE MICRONESIAN JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA ARE AS ANXIOUS AS OTHER PARTICIPATING STATE DELEGATIONS TO SEE FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN THE CURRENT LAW OF THE SEA CONFER-

ENCE, SAID CHAIRMAN AMARAICH AND ADDED: "WE CERTAINLY LOOK FORWARD WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE, THE OUTCOME OF WHICH COULD ADEQUATELY PROTECT AND SAFEGUARD OUR SEA RESOURCES WITHIN THE DESIGNATED ECONOMIC ZONE AREA. IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE HEAVILY RELYING ON THE UNITED STATES, AS THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY OF THE LAST TRUST TERRITORY (THE U.S. TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS) TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER AND ACCOMMODATE THE MICRONEASIAN INTERESTS IN HER POSITION AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS. WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO HOPE," CHAIRMAN AMARAICH CONCLUDED, "THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CARRY OUT HER TRUST OBLIGATIONS TO MICRONESIANS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CARACA 06358 110743Z

IN THIS RESPECT."

"HEADED BY CHAIRMAN AMARAICH, MEMBERS AND STAFF OF THE MICRONESIAN JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA HAD THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY A COURTESY CALL ON CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE ON MONDAY, JULY 1. DURING THE BRIEF VISIT, THE CHAIRMAN REITERATED THE MICRONESIAN INTEREST IN THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE CARACAS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE WILL IN GOOD FAITH PROTECT THE MICRONESIAN INTERESTS DURING THE CURRENT AND FUTURE SESSIONS. CHAIRMAN AMARAICH ALSO EXTENDED MICRONESIA'S CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE FOR THE BRILLIANT AND EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP HE HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTING TO THE EFFICIENT PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE".

"IN ADDITION TO CHAIRMAN AMARAICH, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MICRONESIAN

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA INCLUDE: REP. HERMAN Q. GUERRERO

OF THE MARIANAS, VICE-CHAIRMAN: REP. MASAO NAKAYAMA OF TRUK; AND
ONE OF THE THREE NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBER, REP. LUKE TMAN OF YAP.
OTHER MEMBERS WHO WILL BE JOINING THE GROUP IN CARACAS IMMEDIATELY
AFTER THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ARE:
SENATOR AMATA KABUA OF THE MARSHALLS; REP. RESIO OF PONAPE; AND
REP. TIMOTHY S. OKERIIL OF PALAU. CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA STAFF
ATTORNEY FREDERICK L. RAMP, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL KALEB UDUI, AND
SPECIAL CONSULTANT FREDERICK S. WYLE OF SAN FRANCISCO ARE ALSO WITH
THE MICRONESIAN GROUP IN CARACAS. UDUI IS EXPECTED TO DEPART EARLIER
FOR SAIPAN TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION WHICH
CONVENES JULY 23. -- CHAIRMAN AMARAICH SENDS.
STEVENSON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN.

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